

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 3 December 1980 (04.12)  
11948/80 (Presse 181)

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

441.2 (62)

At a ceremony which took place today at the Council of the European Communities in Brussels, an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic concerning the implementation of pre-accession aid for Portugal was signed by:

- Mr D. FREITAS do AMARAL, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs,

on behalf of the Portuguese Republic, and

- Miss Colette FLESCH, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and President-in-Office of the Council, and

- Mr Lorenzo NATALI, Vice-President of the Commission,

on behalf of the Council of the European Communities.

.../...

Besides the signatories, the following also attended the signing ceremony:

- for Portugal, Mr Rui ALMEIDA MENDES, State Secretary for European Integration and Mr Ernani RODRIGUES LOPES, Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Portugal to the European Communities, and the members of the Portuguese delegation;
- for the Community, the Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives of the Member States and senior officials of the Community Institutions.

o

o

o

At the signing ceremony speeches were made by Miss FLESCH, President of the Council, by Mr NATALI, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, and by Mr D. FREITAS do ALARAL, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic. The speakers emphasized the importance of this pre-accession aid, the aim of which is to facilitate Portugal's integration into the Community.

The Agreement provides for participation by the Community on an exceptional basis, during the period beginning with its entry into force and until the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of Portugal to the European Communities, in the financing of specific operations undertaken by the Portuguese Government in accordance with the aforementioned aim.

For this purpose, a total amount of 275 MEUA may be committed as follows:

- 150 MEUA in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank, granted from its own resources, 125 MEUA of which will attract an interest rate subsidy of 3% to be charged to the budget of the Communities.

These loans will be used for financing or contributing towards the financing of investment projects which, with the objective inter alia of encouraging regional development in Portugal, will help to increase productivity and strengthen the Portuguese economy, and promote in particular the improvement of Portugal's industrial structures, the modernization of its agriculture and fisheries and the development of infrastructures;

- 125 MEUA in the form of grant aid to be charged to the budget of the Communities, 25 MEUA of which will be used for the financing of the aforementioned interest rate subsidies, and 100 MEUA for financing or contributing towards the financing of co-operation projects or programmes and of technical assistance operations.



When selecting the co-operation projects or programmes, special attention will be given to those aimed at encouraging in particular:

- the restructuring, modernization and development of small and medium-sized businesses;
- improvement of production and marketing structures in agriculture and fisheries;
- the creation of infrastructures aimed at facilitating more balanced development between regions;
- the establishment of an integrated national vocational training policy based on a network of vocational training centres.

The Agreement is to enter into force after the completion of the procedures of each of the two Parties.

After consulting the European Parliament, the Council of the European Communities will adopt the Regulation on the conclusion of this Agreement.

---